Issuance of cheques without back-up funds

837. SHRIMATI SUDHA VIJAY JOSHI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Banking Commission had recommended in 1971 that issuance of cheques without back-up funds in the bank accounts be treated as a criminal offence under the Indian Penal Code; and

(b) if so, what follow-up action Government have taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) The Banking Laws Ctmmittee had recommended that bouncing of cheques should be made a penal offence.

(b) Government would come forward with appropriate legislative measures in this regard if so required.

News-item captioned 'Africa assured NAM help"

838. SHRIMATI KRISHNA KAUL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news-item which appeared in the 'Hindustan Times" of the 28th May, 1986 captioned 'Africa assured NAM help';

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(c) what is the nature of help pledged by India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. This news-item concerns the message of our Prime Minister to the Special Session of the UN General Assembly on the Critical Economic Situation in Africa as well as the speech on that occasion by Shri K. R. Narayanan Minister of State for External Affairs. This Special Session was held in New York from 27th to 31st May. 1986.

(c) India's support to the African Priority Programme for Economic Recovery 1986—90 was extended during the Special Session. Following main items of assistance extended by India to tide over the economic problems of Africa were also highlighted in the Special Session:

(i) Gift of one lakh tonnes of wheat to African countries in 1984;

(ii) Contribution in 1985 of Rs. 120 million to OAU Special Emergency Fund for purchase of wheat and cereals from India;

(iii) Earlier pledge of US $ 400,000 for a Project of Economic Commission for Africa; and

(iv) Cooperation with African countries in various spheres under Indian Techincal and Economic Cooperation Programme (ITEC).

Setting up of a jute mill in Kishanganj in Bihar

839. SHRI RAFIQUE ALAM: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) what progress has so far been made for the setting up of a jute mill in Kishanganj in Bihar; and

(b) what are the reasons for the slow progress on this project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN): (a) and (b) No substantial progress appears to have been made so far by the applicant for setting up of a new jute mill at Kishanganj in Bihar. The main reason for slow progress appears to be non-availability of funds.